



Emergency Response Guide for Virtual Pipeline Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Tube Trailers

Virtual Pipeline trailers are specialized vehicles used for transporting compressed natural gas in high-pressure cylinders. This guide provides information for initial operations at emergencies involving virtual pipeline trailers.

LOOK:

- PLACARDS, UN ID 1971
- DOT SP- 16524
- SHIPPING PAPERS
- NATURAL GAS-COMPRESSED written on the side of the trailer.
- WHITE CLOUDS coming from the trailer.
- VENTS in the top of the trailer may release product without warning; if the trailer is on its side, these are pointed right at you.



LISTEN:

- A large release of gas will be extremely loud and will require hearing protection.
- A visible cloud may be present for the first few minutes and will decrease in size over time.
- An uncontrolled release will continue for approximately 60 minutes or longer.
- Faint hissing sounds may continue long after the initial incident.
- Speak with the driver if available to confirm truck contents.

SMELL:

- Natural gas is often odorized. Bystanders may report a rotten egg odor which indicates a leak.

DETECT:

- Use a 4-gas meter to detect gas (LEL).
- Photo Ionization Detectors (PID) will not detect methane.
- Laser Methane Detectors will also be helpful to pinpoint leaks releases.

RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS:

- ➔ SEE NORTH AMERICAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK
Guide 115 Gases – Flammable (including Refrigerated Liquids)
- ➔ Wear firefighter turnout gear with SCBA when approaching damaged trailers
- ➔ Fire or Explosion Hazards - isolate 330 feet in all directions and control ignition sources
Cylinders may vent through relief valves and release flammable gas.
Ruptured cylinders may rocket and move at high speed for long distances.
Allow fires to burn and protect exposures with unmanned monitors.

Virtual Pipeline trailers contain multiple high-pressure cylinders manifolded together inside an intermodal style container.

